

### Cultural Resources Vision

*In 2035, St. Croix County has an interesting history and local traditions, unique architecture and historical sites in part represented by Baldwin's windmill, Hudson's Octagon House, old train depots, barns, and churches throughout the county. The County has worked with appropriate organizations to work at funding and marketing St. Croix's cultural resources to its residents and others including its Native American and pioneer roots. The County has worked with local units of government to maintain their unique local character whether through buildings and events (both art and cultural). The libraries throughout the County are important resources for our children and adults as are community centers and 4-H programs.*

### Introduction

St. Croix County has many unique cultural resources that define its local communities and are a factor in the high quality of life residents enjoy. Its cultural resources include historical structures and sites, scenic vistas and areas, and culturally important structures, events and activities that celebrate the county's diverse heritage. Preservation of historic, archeological, cultural and scenic resources help to foster community pride, improve quality of life, contribute to the preservation of rural character, encourage low-impact tourism and provide social and cultural continuity between past, present and future.

St. Croix County has a long and storied history, with many significant sites. These sites include Native American burial mounds, encampments, lumbering camps, historic downtowns, classic architecture and rural barns, windmills and farmsteads. Historic structures, sites, and districts have unique, often irreplaceable, social value. Such historic resources can also be responsible for defining much of a community's identity. Local communities and organizations recognize that many sites have been demolished or lost and so are working to identify sites that still remain and have significance to local residents.

## A. Conditions, Trends, and Issue Prioritization

### Conditions & Trends

- There are 34 locations in St. Croix County on the National Register of Historic Places. 28 of the 34 are in either Hudson or New Richmond.
- More than 1500 historic places and sites in the County were identified as having historic value and are on the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory. The inventory is not comprehensive and is outdated.
- There are eight historical organizations working to serve the areas' past.
- There are nine libraries/centers with historical and genealogical research materials serving St. Croix County.
- St. Croix County has an abundance of scenic resources.

Octagon House Museum complex and Research Center



New Richmond Heritage Center



### Top Issues

- Many of the county's historic and scenic resources and structures have been moved, demolished or altered.
- There is interest in preserving and documenting the culture and history of the County through local or county efforts, regulation, information and social media tools.
- Rural structures, especially barns, help define the rural character of the county and are being lost as agricultural practices change.

### Implications

- St. Croix County residents are proud of their heritage and celebrate throughout the year with local festivals. Historic, cultural, and scenic resources must be well preserved and managed so that future generations can benefit.
- Each community should work with developers, the county, and the state to preserve its own character, beauty, and identity.
- Successful cooperation will be needed for funding and promotion in order to maintain the large number and variety of cultural events and opportunities in the County.
- New development may lack a sense-of-place or community identity which contributes to resident apathy and detachment, instead of encouraging belonging and involvement.

## B. Additional Information

More detailed cultural resources-related analysis, programs and policies applicable to the County are identified within the *St. Croix County Conditions and Trends Report* as well as *Inventory of Plans, Programs, and Land Use Policies in West Central Wisconsin*.

## C. Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1:** *Enhance and maintain the County's historic, scenic and other cultural resources to improve quality of life, preserve rural character, encourage tourism and maintain community identity for current and future County residents.*

### Objectives:

- 1.1 Identify and preserve the county's cultural traditions and agricultural, historic and archeological resources that recognize pre-settlement and early settlement periods.
- 1.2 Increase awareness and promote the development of cultural and historical organizations, events and services in the County; promote and recognize the important roles they play in local communities and the economy.
- 1.3 Promote the preservation, rehabilitation or reuse of historically and architecturally significant structures, sites or districts that preserve rural character or maintain community identity.
- 1.4 Encourage preservation of scenic landscapes, sites and roadways that are unique, interesting or important to residents and their quality of life.

***St. Croix County Comprehensive Planning  
Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2008:***

- 22 percent of county residents voted natural beauty as one of the top three reasons they chose to live in St. Croix County.

## D. Policies

### ***Historic & Scenic Resources***

- 1.1 Encourage the completion and/or update of historical, architectural and archeological resource surveys by local historic societies within the County which are integrated into the Wisconsin Architecture & History Survey and promote the preservation and integrity of these sites.
- 1.2 Encourage private landowners to protect and/or rehabilitate identified cultural, historic, archeological and scenic resources and utilize tax incentives when possible.
- 1.3 Encourage property owners and local communities to explore the availability and use of grant money to rehabilitate, restore or relocate historic structures threatened by demolition or disrepair.
- 1.4 Encourage maintenance and reuse of historic structures, such as houses, barns and silos, to preserve community identity and rural character.
- 1.5 Consider historic, scenic or other cultural resources before and during consideration of development proposals.

***St. Croix County Comprehensive Planning  
Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2008:***

- 84 percent of county residents feel it is important to preserve the County's cultural resources (historic sites, etc.) using regulations to accomplish the preservation.
- 87 percent of county residents also feel it is important or very important to preserve scenic views through regulation.

## Cultural Resources

- 2.1 Support local festivals, fairs, farm tours, farmer's markets, etc. that celebrate community identity, rural character and the county's logging, mining, pioneer, agricultural heritage.
- 2.2 Recognize different ethnic communities in the County and ways to accept and embrace diversity with an overall goal of creating respect and appreciation for differences that exist.
- 2.3 Encourage communities to integrate signage, recognition programs, locally designated landmarks, etc., into public improvement and outdoor recreational plans to increase the visibility and public knowledge of St. Croix County's history and diverse cultural resources.

## E. State and National Register of Historic Places

HISTORIC SITE	LOCATION	MUNICIPALITY	LISTED
Bell, Marcus Sears, Farm	1100 Heritage Dr.	New Richmond	1988
Bernd, William J., House	210 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	New Richmond	1988
Bernd, William J., House	143 Arch Av.	New Richmond	1988
Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad Car Shop Historic District	Bounded by: Gallahad Rd., Sommers, 4 <sup>th</sup> , & St. Croix streets	North Hudson	1984
Darling, Frederick L., House	617 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Hudson	1984
Dwellely, William, House	1002 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	Hudson	1984
Epley, Dr. Frank W., Office	137 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	New Richmond	1988
First English Lutheran Church	354 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	New Richmond	1988
Glover, Ezra, Jr., House	415 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	New Richmond	1988
Hudson Public Library	304 Locust St	Hudson	1984
Humphrey, Herman L., House	803 Orange St.	Hudson	1984
Johnson, August, House	427 St. Croix St.	Hudson	1984
Johnson, Dr. Samuel C., House	405 Locust St.	Hudson	1984
Kell, William H., House	215 Green Ave.	New Richmond	1988
Kinnickinnic Church	WI J, jct. with WI JJ	Kinnickinnic	2000
Kriesel, Louis C. & Augusta, Farmstead	132 State Trunk Hwy 35/64	St. Joseph	2009
Lewis Farmhouse	Farm Dr.	Boardman	1982
Lewis-Williams House	101 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Hudson	1985
Merritt, Samuel T., House	904 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	Hudson	1984
Mielke, Joseph, House	326 Second St. W	New Richmond	1988
Moffat, John S., House	1004 3 <sup>rd</sup> St	Hudson	1974
New Richmond News Building	145 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	New Richmond	1988
New Richmond West Side Historic District	Bounded by: Willow, Minnesota, W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , S. Washington	New Richmond	1988
Opera Hall Block	516 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	Hudson	1979
Phipps, William H., House	1005 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Hudson	1987
Second St. Commercial District	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Walnut, & Locust	Hudson	1984
Sixth St. Historic District	6 <sup>th</sup> St. between Myrtle & Vine St.	Hudson	1984
Soo Line Depot	120 High St.	New Richmond	1988
Soo Line High Bridge	Restricted	Somerset	1977
St. Croix County Courthouse	904 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Hudson	1982
Stillwater Bridge*	MN36/WI64 over St. Croix River	Houlton	1989
Thelen, John Nicholas & Hermina, House	1383 & 1405 Thelen Farm Trail	St. Joseph	2009
Thompson, Erick J., House	350 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	New Richmond	1988
Williams, T.E., Block**	321 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	Hudson	2009

source: National Register of Historic Places < <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com> >. November 22, 2011

\*National Register listing only. \*\*State Register listing only.